

RAJYA SABHA

LIST OF BUSINESS

Friday, March 24, 2023

11 A.M.

1.

#QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS entered in separate lists to be asked and answers given.

2.

(FROM 2.30 P.M. TO 5.00 P.M.)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS (RESOLUTIONS)

1. FURTHER DISCUSSION on the following Resolution moved by **SHRI ABDUL WAHAB** on the 10th February, 2023:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) Sachar Committee Report, 2006 and Ranganath Mishra Commission Report, 2007 reveals that the condition of Muslims in India is worse than SCs and STs;
- (ii) according to the "Sachar Committee Report" one-fourth of Muslim children in the age group of 6-14 years have either never attended school or are drop-outs;
- (iii) for children above the age of 17 years, the educational attainment of Muslims at higher education is 17%, as against national average at 26% and only 50% of muslim children who complete middle school education are likely to complete secondary education, compared to national average of 62%;
- (iv) Muslim population comprises of 14% of national population but their representation in Higher Education is very low;
- (v) In All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019-20, a total of 1019 universities including Central, State, open and other types of universities in India participated and it was found in the Survey that only 5.5% Muslims are in Higher education;
- (vi) the number of muslim women in higher education is 13 out of 100 which is too low as per All India level National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), 2018 report;
- (vii) as per National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), 2018 Muslims were the lowest represented in salaried-class employment and the share of Muslims in government jobs is less than half of their proportion of the population.
- (viii) Muslims account for a mere 2.67 percent of directors and senior executives among Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) 500 companies;

At 12 Noon.

- (ix) As per NSSO, 2013 nearly 46 percent of Muslims are self-employed in urban India, the largest as compared with any other community,

this house urges upon the government to:-

- (a) implement the recommendation of Sachar Committee Report and other reports that have discussed the educational and social backwardness of Muslims;
- (b) reinstate and enhance all those scholarship and educational upliftment program that aimed to improve the higher education participation of Muslims;
- (c) help Madrassas to modernise with special infrastructural fund;
- (d) develop and implement special affirmative actions for Muslim women to improve their Higher education in central universities, Institutes of National Importance and work participation of Muslim women;
- (e) form a commission to study the representation of Muslims in University spaces including higher education and in the private and public jobs; and
- (f) enact a legislation for prevention of atrocities against minorities of the country so as to build confidence amongst Muslims who are vulnerable."

2. **SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA** to move the following resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) the Indian start-up ecosystem has grown to become the third largest in the world;
- (ii) more than 60,000 start-ups have been recognised by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT);
- (iii) many young people are entering into Government and PSU jobs, both at the Centre and in States;
- (iv) many of these young Government employees have entrepreneurial acumen and are willing to take higher risks;
- (v) but the current service rules do not allow Government employees to pursue a private venture while being in the employment;
- (vi) this deprives many aspiring entrepreneurs from developing their start-up idea and solving problems, creating job opportunities and adding to the national economy;
- (vii) countries like Canada, Sweden and Qatar have introduced programmes where State employees can take upto three years of paid leave to pursue their entrepreneurial venture. Seed funding, incubation and other resources are also made available to such start-ups. They also have a guarantee that they can join their employment again, in case they decide to; and
- (viii) if such a provision is made available in India for employees working across Central Government/PSUs/Autonomous Bodies/Constitutional Bodies, we may be able to unlock the wealth of talent and energy in these employees and move faster towards the aim of Atmanirbhar Bharat,

the House urges upon the Government to:-

- (a) make suitable amendments in the service and leave rules and allow the employees working in the Central Government/PSUs/Autonomous Bodies/Constitutional Bodies to avail 'Entrepreneurship leave' in order to pursue their entrepreneurial idea;
- (b) establish a selection mechanism by appointing a review committee that shall review the idea and its potential;
- (c) make suitable provisions in establishment rules of government bodies/PSUs/Autonomous Bodies/Constitutional Bodies for granting seed fund, incubation and other resources to the start-ups initiated by its employee(s);
- (d) make provisions for the parent organisation of the employee who wishes to venture a start-up to hold equity in the start-up. This will create an opportunity for the parent organisation to generate revenue without any real investment; and
- (e) ensure strict monitoring and oversight in order to resolve any conflict of interest and ensure "fair play".

3. **SHRI A.A. RAHIM** to move the following resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) a large number of youth in our country are unemployed and the problem is becoming more and more serious with every passing day;
- (ii) in recent years unemployment in India has increased substantially;
- (iii) the jobs situation in the country had worsened much before the pandemic crisis set in – the country had "jobless growth" even during the years when economic growth was high, but in the recent years even the absolute number of employed people has fallen;
- (iv) as per the 16th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) report released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) the unemployment rate in urban areas for persons aged 15 and above was 7.6% in April-June 2022 and 7.2% in July-September 2022;
- (v) as per the report the unemployment rate among females (aged 15 years and above) in urban areas was 9.4 percent in July-September, 2022, and, among males, the unemployment rate in urban areas was 6.6 percent;
- (vi) the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement in the case of Olga Tellis and Ors. v Bombay Municipal Corporation and Ors. (AIR 1986 SC 18) had recognised that the Right to Work is inherent in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution which guarantees the Right to Life as a fundamental right. Hence the State has a responsibility towards its citizens to guarantee them employment;
- (vii) the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), is a watered-down version of the drafts of the law that preceded it;

the House urges upon the Government to:-

- (a) bring about legislation for setting up an Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme, which should take into account complexities such as the problems of the educated unemployed and those of migrant labourers, since the types of employment that the educated would demand may differ from the kind of casual manual work that has been made available as part of MGNREGA;
- (b) include all cities – including the larger ones with more than 1 million population – which would benefit from the public infrastructure that can be built under the Urban Employment Guarantee (UEG) programme;
- (c) address the issue of migration, which would require a complete overhaul of economic policy including agrarian sector and accord preferential treatment for development of smaller cities and towns.;
- (d) provide for expansion of the public education and public healthcare;
- (e) universalise and expand the Public Distribution System, which would generate more jobs and also address problem of food insecurity and malnutrition and would also help migrant labourers.
- (f) expand housing facilities for migrants to ensure decent living conditions for this section of the population."

4. **DR. V. SIVADASAN** to move the following resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) the right to work with dignity and security is cardinal to the well-being of an individual and security of livelihood can help in moral and material progress of society;
- (ii) the violation of labour rights, inhuman treatment, illegal punitive actions and high handedness against workforce is not an uncommon practice being used by many corporate companies;
- (iii) recently large scale retrenchments have taken place in the Information Technology/Information Technology enabled Services(IT/ITeS) industry and are still continuing;
- (iv) it is reported that till the end of December, 2022 more than 21,000 employees have been thrown out of job by various companies;
- (v) it is also reported that many of the companies were using illegal and inhuman methods to retrench the employees and there are complaints that instead of adopting the constitutional methods, some of the IT/ITeS companies are adopting even criminal practices, like intimidation and coercion, forcing the employees to resign;
- (vi) the violation of the labour laws with impunity by some companies in the IT sector is extremely unfortunate and there are many instances where the employees were forced to take legal measures so as to protect their legitimate rights;

- (vii) in order to ensure that the labour laws are followed in the IT/ITeS industry in which more than 50 lakh employees are working there should be strong Government intervention;
- (viii) there is an urgent need to ensure that labour laws and legislations are strictly implemented and the rights of the workers are protected; and
- (ix) there is a need to pay strong attention to the adoption of a comprehensive approach to ensure that right to livelihood of IT/ITeS workers of the country is protected and they are not forced to suffer unnecessarily,

the House urges upon the Government to:-

- (a) initiate steps to ensure proper monitoring mechanisms are in place to protect the IT and ITeS employees by proper implementation of labour laws;
- (b) establish institutional mechanisms to ensure strict monitoring of the observance of labour laws; and
- (c) take immediate steps to provide assistance to workers who are fighting for their legitimate rights."

5. **SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI** to move the following resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) menstruation is a natural physiological process and often marks the preliminary stage of maternity;
- (ii) most women experience a menstrual cycle of 28 days;
- (iii) more than 50 per cent of those who menstruate experience pain for a couple of days a month and for some it is debilitating enough to hamper their daily activities and productivity;
- (iv) menstruation becomes excruciatingly uncomfortable for women who suffer from illnesses like various menstrual cycle-related illnesses such as Polycystic Ovarian Disease (PCOD), endometriosis, dysmenorrhoea, etc.
- (v) according to an estimate of the Endometriosis Society, over 25 million women in our country suffer from endometriosis, a condition that makes period pain debilitating enough and have other symptoms, as a result women may experience fainting;
- (vi) in a survey conducted by the Hamdard Institute of Medical Sciences and Research in Delhi, approximately 40 per cent of girls missed out on schooling during their periods and 76 per cent of them disclosed that the reason for absenteeism was the pain and discomfort associated with the experience;
- (vii) the reasons for absenteeism also included unavailability of private spaces including bathrooms to manage periods, lack of running water supply, lack of disposal system for sanitary pads and cloths;
- (viii) to address the issue and advance gender equity by normalising menstruation, countries like Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, Zambia etc., have institutionalised menstrual leave policy for women.

- (ix) Spain has introduced paid menstrual or period leaves, with a law passed in February, 2023.
- (x) as per this law, the government would fund the monthly paid leaves of three to five days after seeing a doctor's note. Also included in the law are provisions for free menstrual hygiene products that would be made available in educational centres, prisons, and social centres;
- (xi) within India, the State Governments of Bihar and Kerala have made provision for menstrual leaves for employees and students.
- (xii) in our country some Private Companies have also introduced menstrual leaves for their employees; and
- (xiii) but, a potential drawback that may get associated with a national menstrual policy is that it may carry the risk of disincentivising the hiring of female workers especially in the private sector due to increased costs and compliance,

the House urges upon the Government to:-

- (i) consider formulating a national menstrual leave policy for women and girls in educational institutions and workplaces.
- (ii) the policy should include rules that encourage flexible working arrangements for women, generate sensitisation towards menstruation, and ensure access of women and girls to menstrual health products within these spaces;
- (iii) assess the potential impact of such a policy measure on the hiring of female workers and put in place safeguards that continue to incentivise employers to generate employment opportunities for women; and
- (iv) coordinate with State Governments on the measure so that women across all States have uniform access to menstrual leaves and the associated benefits thereof."

3. CONSIDERATION of any item of Government business entered in the List of Business for Thursday, March 23, 2023 and not concluded on that day.

NEW DELHI;
March 21, 2023

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.